

SECRET (When Filled In)



• ROUTINE

STATE/INR JCS/MC (DIA) CIA/NMCC SWS NSA TREAS MSC/S SDO NIO CRS PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

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~~SECRET~~

DIST 24 NOVEMBER 1976

1.5 (c)

1.

SAID THAT THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO RELEASE LUIS CORVALAN, IMPRISONED SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHILE (PCCH), IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. SAID THAT CORVALAN'S HEALTH IS FAILING, ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT, FOR OBVIOUS POLITICAL REASONS, WOULD LIKE TO

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EXCHANGE CORVALAN WITH THE SOVIETS FOR VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY, THEY WILL RELEASE HIM UNILATERALLY IF THEY HAVE TO DO SO.

2. ( [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION IS PROBABLY BASED ON ITS DESIRE TO AVOID THE ADVERSE PUBLICITY THAT WOULD RESULT IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO CORVALAN WHILE HE IS STILL UNDER DETENTION.)

3. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THAT IF THE SOVIETS AND THE CUBANS DO NOT AGREE TO EXCHANGE CORVALAN FOR BUKOVSKY AND PCCH LEADER JORGE MONTES FOR THE CUBAN HUBERT MATOS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROBABLY FREE CORVALAN AND MONTES UNILATERALLY.)

4. (EMBASSY COMMENT: EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE CONSIDERED IT LIKELY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD RELEASE CORVALAN IF IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT MAKE AN EXCHANGE FOR HIM. SUCH A UNILATERAL RELEASE WOULD NOT ONLY KEEP UP THE FAVORABLE MOMENTUM BEGUN WITH THE RECENT RELEASE OF STATE OF SIEGE PRISONERS BUT WOULD PROBABLY RESULT IN MORE CREDIT FOR CHILE THAN AN EXCHANGE WOULD.)

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